

Changing uniform election dates  
(SB 1210 by Lyon/Hackney)

DIGEST: SB 1210 would have eliminated the January uniform election date and would have changed the spring uniform election date from the third Saturday in May to the first Saturday in May. It would have stipulated that any runoff from the May election would be held on the last Saturday in May. (Current law allows a later runoff.) Cities bordering on the Gulf of Mexico with a population of more than 250,000 that held elections on the first Saturday in April before that date was eliminated (Corpus Christi) would have been permitted to hold city elections on any Saturday in April in odd-numbered years.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON  
FOR VETO:

The provision eliminating the January election date would create massive problems for school districts, junior college districts, cities, counties, and special districts that normally hold elections at that time, the governor said. These problems would be made worse by the early "Super Tuesday" presidential primary date.

AUTHOR'S  
VIEW:

Sen. Ted Lyon said SB 1210 was a noncontroversial bill that was sought specifically by certain cities and was not opposed by other cities and school districts. The third Saturday in January is probably the least used of the uniform dates. The senator noted the governor had vetoed large numbers of election bills, perhaps out of fear of a hidden Democratic agenda.

NOTES:

The House Research Organization analysis of the companion bill, HB 2389 by Hackney, appeared in the May 14, 1987 Daily Floor Report.